

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A continuous pickling method comprising:
performing pickling of a traveling steel strip ~~[[while]]~~ by supplying an acid solution to
at least two pickling tanks of a plurality of pickling tanks making up a continuous pickling
apparatus; and ~~[[, characterized in that]]~~

controlling the amount of acid solution which is supplied to each of the at least two
pickling tanks by:

determining a total amount of acid solution to be supplied to the at least two
pickling tanks ~~[[is determined]]~~ based on a scale thickness value, a width value and a
traveling speed of the steel strip value, and

determining a distribution ratio of the acid solution supply for each of the at
least two pickling tanks ~~[[is determined]]~~ based on a pickling pattern for the steel strip
and the traveling speed of the steel strip, the distribution ratio used in the controlling
step

~~thereby controlling the amount of acid solution which is supplied to each of the at
least two pickling tanks.~~

2. (currently amended) A continuous pickling method as set forth in claim 1,
~~[[characterized in that]]~~ wherein the distribution ratio of the acid solution supply is
determined using a value selected from a plurality of predetermined set values of distribution
ratios.

3. (currently amended) A continuous pickling method as set forth in claim 1,
~~[[characterized in that]]~~ wherein the value for the scale thickness is selected from a plurality

of set values of scale thicknesses which are previously determined based on the steel type of the steel strip.

4. (currently amended) A continuous pickling method as set forth in claim 1,
 [[characterized in that the]] wherein the distribution ratio of the acid solution supply is
 determined using a value selected from a plurality of predetermined set values based on the
 traveling speed of the steel strip.

5. (currently amended) A continuous pickling method comprising:
 performing pickling of a traveling steel strip [[while]] by supplying an acid solution to
 at least two pickling tanks of a plurality of pickling tanks making up a continuous pickling
 apparatus, and [[characterized in that]]

controlling the amount of acid solution which is supplied to each of the at least two
 pickling tanks by:

determining a total amount of acid solution to be supplied to the at least two
 pickling tanks [[is determined]] based on a scale thickness value, a width value and
 traveling speed of the steel strip value; [[,]]

determining a distribution ratio of the acid solution supply for the at least two
 pickling tanks [[is determined]] based on a pickling pattern of the steel strip and the
 traveling speed of the steel strip value, the distribution ratio used in the controlling
 step; [[,]] and

~~thereby controlling the amount of acid solution which is supplied to each of the at~~
 ~~least two pickling tanks, and~~

adding a correction value of acid solution to the supplied amount of acid
 solution in each of the at least two pickling tanks based on [[the]] a deviation of a

measured value of ~~[[the]]~~ a concentration of the ~~[[pickling]]~~ acid solution in each of the at least two pickling tanks from a set acid solution concentration value for each of the at least two pickling tanks ~~is added to the supply amount of acid solution.~~

6. (original) A continuous pickling method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the ~~[[predetermined set]]~~ value for the scale thickness and/or for the determined distribution ratio of the acid solution supply is corrected and set based on ~~[[a]]~~ said correction value ~~of control which is obtained by addition with respect to the supply of the pickling solution.~~

7. (previously presented) A continuous pickling method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least two pickling tanks include at least a final pickling tank.

8-14. canceled.

15. (currently amended) A continuous pickling method as set forth in claim 2, characterized in that the value for the scale thickness is selected from a plurality of set values of scale thicknesses which are previously determined based on the steel type of the steel strip.

16. (previously presented) A continuous pickling method as set forth in claim 2, characterized in that the distribution ratio of the acid solution supply is determined using a value selected from a plurality of predetermined set values based on the traveling speed of the steel strip.

17. (previously presented) A continuous pickling method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the at least two pickling tanks include at least a final pickling tank.

18-20. canceled.

21. (new) In a method of manufacturing a steel plate, wherein the manufacturing includes the steps of hot working the plate and removing scale produced by the hot working by a pickling step, the improvement comprising using the method of claim 1 for the pickling step.

22. (new) In a method of manufacturing a steel plate, wherein the manufacturing includes the steps of hot working the plate and removing scale produced by the hot working by a pickling step, the improvement comprising using the method of claim 5 for the pickling step.